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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

FEBRUARY 1st, 1918.

ISSUED MONTHLY

FOR

THE NATIONAL BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.

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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

The Official Organ of the
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

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National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

The object of the Association is the improvement of the Beekeeping Industry and furthering the interests and prosperity of the Beekeepers throughout the Dominion. Membership is extended to any Beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association, on payment of a small fee.

All communications respecting the Association and Journal to be sent to
FRED. C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL.

Will those subscribers who have complained to the Editor of the absence of name or address where they are to send their subscriptions for the Journal kindly cast their eyes over this first page, where they will find it mentioned three times. We sent out 100 notices re overdue subscriptions, and have received a fair number of replies, six of whom gave us the advice that it would be better if we indicated where they were to send the subscriptions to. Whilst appreciating the advice given, we suggest they are a bit late. Apparently addressing the wrapper in red ink is not sufficient to bring some of our readers up to the mark with their subscriptions. It wants, as one man puts it, the invisible ink—i.e., no Journal at all—and over fifty will probably be wondering why it does not come along this month. We do not run the Journal from any philanthropic motive; we expect those who receive it to pay the subscription, or to instruct us to discontinue sending. We are not going to carry a lot of dead-heads on our list. If two reminders are not sufficient, the Journal will not be sent.

Since the retirement of Mr. I. Hopkins, the office of Chief Apiarist has not been filled, and we think it is quite time the attention of the Minister was drawn to this fact. We know that Mr. Kirk, of the Department of Agriculture, was approached at the time of the last Conference, and stated he could hold out little hope of appointment at present, but would support the proposal when normal conditions prevail. This is hardly a fair disposal of the question: our industry is not standing still; it is, we think, in proportion making as much headway as any in the country. Mr. F. S. Pope, Secretary to the Department of Agriculture, in his address at the opening of last Conference, said "he was looking forward to a big increase in the industry; it was going to be of very great importance as a secondary industry." We entirely agree, Mr. Pope, and would point out that one firm that handles honey alone increased its returns last year from £8,000 to £17,000, so you will not get any serious eye trouble through gazing into the dim distant future for the big increase you were looking for.

The Government has urged all producers not to spare themselves in their efforts to produce as much foodstuffs as possible, and we are the producers of a commodity that takes the place of the food that is in shortest supply—viz., sugar. Our honey is being waited for in the Old Country to replace sugar; consequently we are the people to whom every help and consideration should be given. The whole trouble is we are too modest: we keep bees, and sort of apologise to the person who asks us what we do for a living. Up to very recently our price was modest—3½d. or 4d. per lb. for the finest foodstuff produced on this earth. We pay our inspectors modestly, less than a man can earn using a pick and shovel; the whole industry is so wrapped up in modesty that the majority of people do not know it exists. If reports be true, the inspectors are so modest they will not visit a district or beekeeper without at least a year or two has passed since the previous call. Therefore, we think it is time we dropped this virtue and adopted a little "push."

* * * *

WE WANT A CHIEF APIARIST APPOINTED! The growth of the industry warrants it; the state of the industry demands it; the whole of the industry is emphatic that the time is now ripe for it for the following reasons:—At present we have no fully qualified beekeeper to whom we can appeal in a dispute where the knowledge and experience of such a man is necessary. For example, the case of faulty grading. Had we a Chief Apiarist, the matter could have been settled very simply and with little expense: he himself would have gone and graded the honey. But under present conditions the only thing to be done was to send the three other graders down, necessitating considerable expense, the work in their own districts held up, and their unpleasant task of condemning the work of a fellow-officer. Take another side of the question—that of box-hives and disease existing in a district. We get a letter complaining of both. The Department is advised, and probably the inspector is questioned, but as he is the one on whom the report reflects, he naturally makes his case good, and we all should probably do the same; but a Chief Apiarist could go himself and investigate if necessary.

* * * *

Then the system (?) of inspection. We supply the inspectors with the most up-to-date means of locomotion to enable them to get round their districts, and that is about all there is in it. They go when and where they like: some districts get two or three visits; others get none. We are told it is impossible to get through the district in reasonable time, and we quite believe it. You can do very little of anything without system, and that is just the fault of the inspection. We have had visits from the inspectors one month, and in a short time found they were in the district again. We believe there is ample time for an inspector to get round the whole of his district in the year. Do not lose sight of the fact that they have twelve months to do their work in. The only work that should bring them to their headquarters is grading, which would mean one or two days at the most once a month. By working the extreme ends of their districts in the fine months of the year, to within a forty-mile radius of headquarters to be worked in the more unsettled part, we are convinced there would be very little left not visited by the end of the year. "But," says one, "how about all the correspondence that would accumulate whilst they were away?" There need be very little correspondence addressed to the inspectors. All matters bearing upon their work would be dealt with by the chief. It is absurd that these men should be stuck in their offices answering letters, when their place is on the road doing the work they were appointed to do—inspecting and instructing. Just here we wish to state that we are not criticising the men. Please understand clearly it is the system or conditions as they now are that we are discussing, and in giving the examples to emphasise our point, nothing personal is intended, or to be taken in that way. One inspector has taken the office of Vice-President of a local Branch, and has attended two meetings. The first meant a trip of eighty miles, the second sixty miles over the same ground; then double this mileage to get back to headquarters, and we have the time and expense incurred for a 280-mile trip, and that on a job right outside the work an inspector is appointed to do. The Auckland inspector has the Ruakura Apiary under his wing, also the apiary being built up at Tauranga, necessitating frequent trips to them both. By the way, we do not know why the latter has been brought into existence. How can we get the full value of an efficient system of inspection under these conditions? Do not just these two illustrations show that we are working on wrong lines?

* * * *

We learn that 3,800 beekeepers have registered to date, and the list is far from complete. Even at this number it means that the inspectors will have to make double the visits they have done up to the present. How are they going to be managed without a well-planned system, and who is to arrange this and see it is carried out? As we understand it, the registration of apiaries was brought in to assist, and enable the inspectors to carry out their work more effectually; and you are going to turn the whole business into a farce if you compel a man to register his apiary so that inspection can be made, and then do the work once in two or three years. What benefit is this excellent provision of registration going to be without very different methods being adopted by the inspectors? It is only reasonable to suppose that the Department of Horticulture, which compelled the registration of one-tree orchards, has got quite as much as it can do with systematising the inspection of them, because where one person keeps a hive of bees, there is hardly a garden in the country that has not a fruit

tree in it; so under these conditions where shall we come in? If the law is going to be of any use at all to us, it wants a man who can give his whole time to the supervision and instruction of the staff under him to see the industry gets the benefit it is capable of giving.

* * * *

We believe we are correct in saying that beekeeping is the only branch industry that has not a Chief Expert, and we strongly object to the invidious distinction. We suggest that the Executive discuss this matter at their meeting in February, and, if possible, a deputation wait on Mr. Kirk and the Minister, urging the importance of the appointment we want. We may or may not get what we want by so doing, but we certainly shall not get anything by sitting still; whereas by continually hammering away at these tough-hided gentlemen, there is at least a possibility of getting satisfaction, if we only do it hard enough and often enough.

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.—WE WANT A CHIEF APIARIST, and he to be a LIVE WIRE!

* * * *

The Honey Market.—The latest news of our honey on the English market, as published in the last issue, came at the eleventh hour; in fact, we did not think we should get it in, so could not comment on it. And what news! **140/- per cwt.! 1/3 per lb! Whew!** Not bad, says the man outside the H.P.A., but how does it compare with the prices quoted on the market? We will give a copy of a cable published in the December "Gleanings," sent them by Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Liverpool, dated November 21st:—"Best quality extracted honey, 24 to 26 cents per lb.," which is 1/- to 1/1. Therefore our friends are realising 2d. to 3d. more than the latest quotation. Does it need any comment? We think not.

* * * *

Last month we gave a copy of a letter received from a firm in Wellington that was offering 8½d. per lb. f.o.b., which we found had been sent all over the country to commercial beemen. The Editor received a number of them from subscribers, and the comments on them were most pleasing:—"We burnt ours." "We are sticking to the H.P.A." "No good to us" are samples. Bully! The Editor wrote the firm, asking for full particulars of the offer, if the advance was without recourse, what commission was being charged, &c., &c. The reply, which is published elsewhere, is interesting. The advance offered is with recourse, and subject to interest, commission, and agents' usual deductions, the shipper to make his own arrangements for shipping. The remark of one of our friends will fit in here:—"It is no good to us!" The B. and D. have increased their advance to 9d., and have guaranteed over 6d. for three years after the war, provided they get the loyal support of the beekeepers pending that happy event; but if they are not treated loyally by being given every ounce of support for the time being, that splendid offer will be withdrawn, and it will be to our lasting shame and loss if it is. For, think, are there any other producers on this earth who can say with absolute certainty and confidence that they will for three years after the war get 50 per cent. more for their produce than pre-war price? It remains entirely with the beekeepers themselves whether they will have their industry resting on such a splendid basis or not. Even to-day we learn that one 5-6 ton man has sold his output to a local merchant at 4¼d. per lb., and we have a letter before us from an Auckland broker who, in reply to a quotation from a beekeeper at 8d. per lb., states that he picked up a ton in Dunedin at 6¼d., f.o.b., which goes to prove the absolute necessity of organised co-operation. Even with that organisation the industry will always be handicapped by the action of disloyal members, who will do underhand work at the expense of their loyal brethren. One man in Taranaki, who is in a fairly large way, sold his crop last year outside the H.P.A., to whom he had pledged his support, for 5d. per lb. We hope he will feel pleased and congratulate himself on his dirty work when he finds that loyalty would have meant 2d. or more per lb. to him. How can the directors of the H.P.A. build solidly when they have such a rotten foundation? How can they say to any firm "we will guarantee" when they have to deal with men without any moral backbone or sense of honesty in fulfilment of their word? The case quoted is, unfortunately, not an isolated one: we could give others.

* * * *

The gift books we were giving to every new subscriber are exhausted, and we cannot get any more; but please do not let this prevent you trying to get extra subscribers.

* * * *

Our friend "Bees," who has written the articles for beginners since we have had control of the Journal, is compelled for health reasons to give it up. We think all who have read those monthly instructions will agree that we are sustaining a great loss, and we desire to thank our friend, who has given us such real help, and at the same time to express the hope that he will soon regain health. Now, who will take up the work for us? It is an essential part of our Journal, and must be carried on, and we should appreciate an offer from any of our experienced beekeepers to do the work. The Editor feels he has about as much as he can do, otherwise he would not appeal.

* * * *

We were agreeably surprised at the amount of "copy" the new arrangement of the setting would allow. It was the first time the printers were able to use all the matter sent, and we are now using some of the letters that have been held over for lack of space, and hope this action will spell peace between the Editor and his contributors. We believe we can now cope with everything sent for publication,

with the near certainty of it appearing the following month. Therefore, we invite all to send along those contributions that have been held back owing to the Editor stating that he had more than he could handle.

* * * *

As we have commenced the second volume of the Journal, we thought it would be advisable to have the previous numbers bound, when it occurred to us that perhaps a number of our readers would like to do the same. Therefore, we wrote to our printers for an estimate for binding the 42 numbers in three books of 14 each, and the reply is as follows:—"We shall be pleased to bind these at the following rates: For not less than 50 sets Journals in three books of 14 issues each, 4/- per set of three books; for 150 sets the price would be 3/6 per set of three books. This does not allow for titling; if such is required 9d. per set of three books extra." We feel sure that a number of our readers would like to have their Journals bound in the manner indicated, and as it will be necessary to have the whole number done at one time, we must know how many. So will those "in favour" please send a card to the Editor just saying "I will," or words to that effect, and the decision must be made by the end of the month. We can then in next month's issue give all necessary instructions re forwarding, remitting cash, &c. We shall want ours titled, and expect everybody will too.

* * * *

We learn that Mr. Earp has failed to pass for military service; therefore we shall not be losing his valuable services, for which we are glad.

* * * *

Canterbury beekeepers, please note:—The annual Field Day of the Canterbury Branch will be held at the apiary of Mr. Ambrose Johnston, St. Martins, Christchurch, on Saturday, February 9th. All beekeepers and those interested in bees are cordially invited to be there.

Waikato beekeepers please note:—The annual Field Day of the Waikato Branch will be held at the apiary of the Ruakura Farm of Instruction on Wednesday, February 13th. A most interesting day is promised. Come and see all the latest moves in the beekeeping world in experiment, switch hives, small hives, large hives. All methods of queen-rearing explained and results shown, &c., &c. Do not miss it.

* * * *

Reports from all parts seem to indicate that the season is not going to be all that it promised. Absence of sun in some parts, too much sun in others; but there is time yet for a fair crop, although we do not think it can possibly be a "bumper," as it promised earlier in the season. Pity 'tis; and prices as they are to-day.

* * * *

We much regret to have to insert "Killed in action" against the name of D. Crawford, Waikoikoi, in our Roll of Honour. We extend our sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

Beekeeping for Beginners.

MONTHLY INSTRUCTIONS.—FEBRUARY.

[As these Instructions conform to the seasons in the Auckland Districts, an allowance must be made for difference in latitude North and South. Average bee-seasons in the extreme North are four weeks earlier, and in Southland three weeks later.—Ed.]

END OF SEASON.

Our New Zealand honey season practically ends with the last of this month—sometimes a little earlier and sometimes, though rarely, it extends into the first week in March. In any case, it is not difficult for beginners to judge of the approach of the close of the season. One of the surest signs is the commencement of the slaughtering season, when the workers kill off the drones. Another is that the bees in the afternoons are more or less idle, and numbers of idlers are to be seen prowling around the junctions of the surplus honey boxes on different hives seeking an entrance to get away with a pilfered load of honey. At such times it is best and safest to do all the manipulation of hives before noon, while the bees are busy. Usually when the season is giving out there is some nectar to be gathered during the forenoon, and robbers will not interefere at that time.

There is time in a favourable season for a good deal of honey to be gathered during the first three weeks of the month, especially if nice refreshing rains come to brighten up the forage.

SUPERSEDING QUEENS.

This is the last and, in many respects, the best month for superseding queens that have passed or are near the end of their most serviceable days. Once passed, they deteriorate very rapidly in this climate, and are likely to succumb during the following winter or early spring. They also as a rule cease breeding early in autumn, when it is to our advantage that they should keep breeding right up to the time they are fixed up for winter (in May), so that there may be plenty of young bees in the hive in the following spring. Later on the changing of queens after the drones are killed is very risky, except in the hands of very experienced men.

TAKING OFF THE LAST HONEY.

As much of the surplus honey should be removed from the hives as possible before the close of the season, taking care not to deprive too closely. It is a mistake to leave much of this work till robbers are active. Should, however, this be unavoidable, the use of

PORTER BEE ESCAPES

will be found indispensable to comfortable working. These can be obtained from hive

manufacturers, and the method of using them is very simple. They are best put on the hives from which supers of honey are to be removed late in the afternoon or evening; the super is lifted up and the escape board put underneath right side up, and the super placed upon it. Before morning the bees will have passed through the escape into the lower boxes, when the super as a whole can be removed right into the honey-house clear of bees. There is, however, one condition necessary to success—there must be no brood or eggs in the super, or it won't work, as the nurse bees would remain with them.

MANIPULATING SECTIONS.

Beginners working for comb honey must look out not to have many half-finished sections left over at end of season. Start at once and work your unfinished or partly finished sections on to your strongest colonies, removing them as fast as ready, replacing them with others to finish, letting the weaker colonies store what they gather in large combs.

NOTE.—I am very reluctantly compelled, owing to indifferent health lately, to give up as much writing as possible. I have asked the Editor to relieve me from writing these "Monthly Instructions," and I do hope someone will take my place and give their assistance to the Editor, as he has much more to do than formerly. I promised the Editor I would start the "Beginners' Column" for him, and having now fulfilled my promise, with the hope that the little I have done has met with approval, I will now take my leave.

BEES.

Comments on Passing Bee Events.

By CRITIC.

[These Comments, be it understood, are not to be accepted in the light that "Critic" thinks he knows everything about bees, because he knows he does not, and never can. They are simply intended to help in some small way the development of our industry.]

Allow me first of all to remark that I consider the re-arrangement of the Journal is an improvement, in as much that subscribers will get more for their money, and you will not likely be badgered so much in having to hold over correspondence so long as previously.

January Issue — Editorial — **Grading Honey.**—You have certainly thrashed this matter out almost to a frazzle; at the same time, I am far from agreeing with much of your contention. You object in the first place to the points allotted to flavour and colour, and ask, "What is the standard of flavour for any particular class of honey?" In my opinion you have asked a question that no one, grader or not, could answer precisely; he could only state in a general manner the difference between what we usually term clover honey, and, say, ti-tree honey, unless either had, which is unusual, a very distinct flavour of something he was familiar with. The reply, I think, in most cases would be that one had a mild and the other a strong flavour, which would be unintelligible to one unaccustomed to eating honey. It is only necessary that a grader should have a "standard," and be able to detect and place the samples of honey that came before him in their proper relative positions or grades to that standard.

Now, on what basis should we set that standard? As commercial beekeepers we, of course, set the standard (meaning, of course, the highest grade by which all honey is graded) on that class of honey which is in most demand and fetches the highest price. You say, "if you take your standard," etc., as if the standard is a matter of toss up, we have no choice; the standard is set by the market, and we have to accept it whatever we may think about it. You will admit that there must be a standard; then on what grounds can the chosen standard oust other honeys out of their proper grades? This needs explaining. I am afraid the comparative tables between butter and honey you have drawn up can make no difference in favour of your contention; neither do I think you are quite correct in some of your remarks. You say flavour, colour and aroma of honey are controlled by bees only. Do you not think it would be more correct to say these depend entirely upon the flora in the district in which the honey is raised, allowing for a variation according to the season, and that the bees are only the labourers that gather it? Take bees away from clover, and set them down where there is flax, ti-tree, etc., and no clover, the flavour of the honey gathered, together with colour and aroma, would be changed altogether, not by the bees, but by the change in their environment.

Now, as to colour. You think the grading points given for this as "unnecessary." I am surprised at this, seeing that you are repeatedly publishing the words "light amber" in reference to the highest prices and the greatest demand in Britain. Colour has always been one of the chief requirements (light amber) on the British and local markets, and there can be no getting away from it. Good colour, as a general rule, accompanies good flavour. As to whether the grading points can be altered to advantage or not is quite another question, which our graders, with their experience, should be best able to settle. If I were asked, I would be in favour of retaining the 50 points for flavour and colour, but would be strongly inclined to allot 30 to flavour and 20 to colour.

Leave out colour, as you suggest, and grading would lose more than half its value.

Page 7—**Bartlett-Miller Comb and Cappings Melter.**—This melter is spoken well of by Root in the last edition of the "A B C," and he should be more experienced in these things than most of us. I am not competent to pass an opinion by reading the text matter, as I have had experience of only the Baines melter. I would suggest that Mr. Miller take one to the coming "field day" at Ruakura, and have it at work.

Pages 10-11—**Hive on Scales.**—Mr. Allan's article is very interesting, and his remarks on the advantages of a scale colony, or a colony on scales, should induce others to follow his example. The scheme is interesting, and conveys much to give thought to what we should otherwise miss. The first beekeeper in New Zealand to my knowledge who kept a hive on scales during the honey season was Mr. Joseph Karl, of Ohaupo, Waikato. It was either in 1884 or 1885 he sent me a short report of a remarkable increase in weight of this hive during three days—the first day 17 lbs., the second day 19 lbs., and the third day 17 lbs., making a difference for the three days of 53 lbs. to the good.

Page 12—**Raising Queen Cells.**—The method Mr. Walworth speaks of as Dr. Miller's plan of raising cells is as old as the hills, and was the one in general practice before the transferring plan came into vogue, and is generally known as the "Alley" plan to distinguish it from the other.

Page 13—**Poisonous Honey.**—There has always been a good deal of this gathered in parts of the Bay of Plenty at certain seasons, especially in the autumn, when the Waoriki (Ranunculus rivularis)—the native buttercup—is in blossom. Honey freshly gathered after February in the swampy parts of the Bay should be kept exposed for a few weeks, when the poisonous matter, being of a volatile nature, will have passed off.

A Correction.—On page 5, first paragraph last issue, I am made to say Mr. "Levy." It should be Mr. "Lenz."

[Your comments on our remarks on Grading, friend "Critic," are just what we wanted. You do not agree with us, nor we with you, on many points. You have difficulty in defining the "standard," and you take it to be the honey that is chiefly called for—light amber. But that colour is not the "standard" in some of the markets to which our honey goes. It is in London where the merchants have made it so. But in Liverpool, according to a letter we received from Taylor & Co. on a sample of Taranaki honey sent them for a report of the market value, white honey is the "standard" there. In the North of England and Scotland the "standard" is again different, where, to our own knowledge, a lady, on seeing a jar of white granulated honey, said, "That is not honey; that is made with sugar and water." They want medium and dark full flavoured honey up there; so how are we to fix light amber as the one colour by which all honey should be graded? Your suggestion that 20 points should be allotted for colour: This would mean that instead of the dark amber honey we gave as an example grading 8½ out of 10, would grade that number out of 20, thereby putting it out of a decent grade altogether. You would in grading light amber have a medium of 15 to 20 points; your medium amber would range from 10 to 15, and your dark from 5 to 10. However, this is not a question to be decided by we two. The object of our remarks was that the matter be discussed by the readers, and we hope we shall get more opinions on it. There is just one other matter in your Comments that we should like to remark on. You suggest that we are wrong in stating that the bees are responsible for the colour of the honey, stating that it would be more correct to say the flora on which the bees work is responsible. This seems to us to be a distinction with very little difference. Friends, we apologise for thus misleading you. Cute beggar, this "Critic."—Ed.]

District Reports.

TARANAKI.

Since my last notes the season has been rather disappointing. From 15th December till Christmas we experienced heavy winds.

The weather improved after Christmas, but the flow was not very heavy, as the pastures were too dry and the weather inclined to be cool.

Since 10th January we have had chiefly wet weather. The clover is coming away well, and the rain should lengthen the season, and give us a heavy flow now on.

There is still time to get a crop well above the average, and the one deciding factor will be the amount of warm weather between now and the middle of February, as the bees are strong and the pastures are fresh.

Those intending to re-queen will be able to do so without loss of crop during February and March. There is no better plan in Taranaki than the ripe cell plan—that is, kill the old queen, and two days later give them a ripe cell. During their broodless period they will store a larger amount of honey than a queen right colony, and will not go into winter too strong in bees, this being an advantage, as strong colonies build up too early as a rule in Taranaki.

H. R. PENNY,
Okaiawa.

16/1/18.

* * *

"CANTERBURY TALES."

(By E. G. WARD.)

I am beginning to wonder if Canterbury beekeepers' hopes of a crop are to be again dashed to the ground. I am speaking of the Ellesmere district in particular,

and although I have no evidence, I fancy the Peninsula members of the craft cannot be any better off. The weather in the month of December was simply vile. The first half was wet, and the rain was welcome; but the latter half was marked by cold winds and dull weather most of the time.

Since the New Year it has been warmer, and there is considerable humidity present, but we have not yet had that settled sunshiny weather which bees delight in. There has been just about enough honey coming in to stimulate brood-rearing to the utmost, and swarming is now the order of the day. At Mr. Gidley's apiary I doubt if there is any more honey in the hives than there was a month or five weeks ago. I have never seen clover looking better, and still hope for the best. Every condition is right for a good crop except that we want the heat.

"Better late than never" is a good motto, but "better not be late" ought to be kept steadily in view. These remarks are prompted by the receipt from Hawera of a circular in reference to the kind of second-hand petrol tins which are recommended for the packing of honey for export. It seems to me to be a waste of good printer's ink to send a notice now. Anyone who anticipated a crop of decent proportions must have secured containers long ago if he did not expect to be left in the lurch. We are now told brands will not be objected to, and that the whole of the top need not be cut out. Why is this thus? Some time ago we were particularly asked not to use tins which were branded, and that the top was to be entirely removed and a new one substituted with a press-in lid. Speaking for myself, I went to endless trouble to get tins free from brands, and have put in entirely new tops at double the cost of a ring and lid, and now find it was unnecessary. I know several others who have done likewise. I confess it is a conundrum, and I "give it up."

Readers will perhaps remember I promised to give the result of my experience in queen-rearing by the Latham method if I tried it. Well, I have tried it—for the first and last time. Here is my story. I selected the best colony I had, so as to be sure of getting a good result. There was a fair honey flow at the time, but still taking no chances, I fed (or, rather, tried to feed). The colony was in a three-storey hive, and I had previously put five frames of brood above the excluder, and this was all sealed, and much of it hatching. I followed directions by removing the queen and all the brood except two to a new stand. There was so much brood that after filling the ten-frame body which contained the queen, I still had two left, but as these were all sealed I decided to leave them with the bees which were to rear this wonderful batch of queens. It was stated in Latham's article that the secret of success was in "concentration," so I made a frame with a wide top bar which would hold 50-cell cups. I thought, "if I give them 50 and they rear that number I will call the plan a success." I had the luck to find three cells of royal jelly, and joyfully went to my best breeder and pulled down another three-storey hive to get some nice young grubs. I grafted the cells, and gave them to the queen-rearing colony with about a quart of syrup. There was such a hive of bees that they "hung out" even in the two-storey hive I had them in. On looking next day I found every cell cleaned out, and not an ounce of the feed taken. Thinking the holes in the feeder were too small, I enlarged them, and gave the bees another 50 grubs, as per adventure they have not been queenless long enough, thought I. No go! All cleaned out again, and still no feed taken, and bees loafing all day. Well, I tried them a third time, with the same result, so I decided to put the queen and brood back. All the time this pantomime was going on the whole apiary was in an uproar with bees flying round and "crying" for their mother and the "babies." They almost seemed as though they knew I was the "brute" responsible, for I believe I got more stings at that hive than from any other dozen put together. It was a "sight for sore eyes" to note their joy when mother and the babies came back and the way they "wagged their tails" and "all walked into the shop" was a treat to see. After this I decided to try them once more, so I gave them fifty more grubs and more feed. They got to work and started nineteen.

To compare results with the Doolittle plan, I gave another hive thirty grafted cells, and this hive reared thirteen nice queens. In this case I did not make any special preparation, and the result is nothing to boast about, but has strengthened my belief in the Doolittle plan.

Doolittle points out in "Scientific Queen Rearing" that his aim was to adhere as closely as possible to Nature's plan.

After thinking over the Latham method I came to the conclusion that it was completely opposed to Nature. Under natural conditions a colony is not suddenly deprived of queen and all brood, hence when man in his wisdom brings about these conditions he is working in opposition to Nature, and fails.

I see by last "Gleanings" that queen-breeders in America have had a very bad season. I can heartily sympathise with them, for the conditions in my district have been the worst I have known. I put out thirty virgins, and got nine mated. Yet someone said at last Conference queens could be reared for a shilling or half-a-crown, if my memory serves me right.

The date for field day of the Canterbury Branch of the National has been fixed for Saturday, 9th February. I hope to see a good attendance and meet the "big guns."

I have not seen any official programme, but understand that a number of addresses

have been arranged for, and some important matters relating to the industry will be discussed.

* * * *

WAIRARAPA.

The second meeting of the Wairarapa Branch of the National Association was held at Masterton on 8th December, 1917, Mr. R. H. Nelson, President, in the chair. Owing to illness the secretary (Mr. Y. H. Benton) was unable to be present, Mr. F. A. Jacobsen filling the office for the meeting.

Mr. T. W. Kirk, of the Department of Agriculture, wired regretting that he was unable to be present.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, Mr. Jacobsen gave the regulations governing the use of petrol tins for exporting honey, which prompted considerable discussion.

The President then addressed the meeting, urging organisation and co-operation amongst the beekeepers, as it was only by collective effort that the industry could be made a really profitable one.

Mr. Rusell asked for particulars re the alleged irregularity of the graders, to which Mr. Jacobsen replied, explaining the method used in grading, which gave satisfaction to the members.

Mr. H. W. Gilling, of the H.P.A., then gave an address on the work of that Association, and was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

It was proposed that the next meeting be held in Pahiatua.

Eight names were submitted for membership and accepted.

The meeting expressed the hope that the secretary would soon be fully restored to health.

At 2.30 p.m. Mr. F. A. Jacobsen gave a demonstration on "Bees and Beekeeping," on which a good discussion followed, the demonstrator being given a hearty vote of thanks.

Y. H. BENTON.

[We would draw the attention of the other Branches to the excellent idea carried out by this our youngest Branch—viz., having their meetings in different parts of the district. Their first was the southern end, Featherston; the second, central, Masterton; the next to be at the northern end, Pahiatua. The chief drawback in local Branches has been that meetings are always held in the centre, the outlying members in most cases not being able to attend, consequently they get tired of paying their subscriptions and taking no part in the deliberations. But you hold a meeting in their part of the country now and then, and you are going to give those members a very great interest, and an incentive to others to join; the needs of that particular part, such as prevalence of box-hives, disease, &c., &c., can be discussed. We heartily commend the practice to the Committees of the older Branches.—Ed.]

Beekeepers' Exchange.

Answers to Correspondents.

T. J. M., Eltham.—We do not agree with your suggestions, and the fact that you accuse us of putting in the Journal "trashy stuff" rather interferes with accepting any help from you. You have the distinction of being the only one to complain of the articles that have appeared, and we are quite willing to give you the opportunity of showing us what "quality" really is over your own name.

J. A., Wyndham.—Very many thanks for your appreciative remarks on the change of style. It certainly pleased us, and we hope all our friends think it is an improvement.

A lady visitor to the East End asked a poor woman:—"Where did you get that beautiful black eye, Mrs. Hawkins?" "It were the result of a triflin' altercation with my 'usband, mum." "Dear, dear, dear!" cried the visitor in horror; "what a wicked man your husband must be!" "Not at all, mum," retorted the other, with dignity. "'Awkins is 'asty, but 'e's a puffect gentleman at 'eart. I can hassure you that, after 'e'd give me this black eye, 'e sat 'oldin' a cold frying-pan to it for hupwards of a hour a-tryin' to deduce the swellin'. A little hattention like that goes a long w'y toward makin' married life 'appy, mum, as I dessay you've found it yourself!"

Experiences in Beekeeping.

(By R. H. NELSON.)

(Concluded.)

Murphy and self carried the rotten affair back the five miles. We also brought back about half a bucketful of mushed up comb and honey "to feed the bees on." I hived the bees into one of my contraptions, and gave them a liberal dose of honey out of the bucket. It was promptly robbed out, and the bees joined the robbers. As there was a honey dearth, all hands had a glorious feed.

As the summer advanced I noticed the peculiar "shmell" that Mr. Murphy complained about; but, knowing nothing whatever about foul-brood, I took no further notice.

At the end of the season I had seven colonies, "of a sort," and enough foulbrood to keep me pretty busy for several years if I had only known it.

As I had to shift the lot in the autumn to a fine place about a mile distant, I felt rather apprehensive about the job. I found an old Cockney who would help me. Eight shillings was the bait, and as that sum represented sixteen long beers, Cockney simply could not refuse. We got an old spring trap, and one evening started operations. We did not secure the hives in any way to the bottom-boards—just put them into the trap as they stood and started off. The track led through a riverbed, with some fine large boulders—say, about the size of my head. Going over I looked over my shoulder. Jerusalem! The hives had started to cannon off each other, and bees were streaming out everywhere.

"Whoa!" I shouted, or words to that effect.

"Undo the —— 'oss!" roared the Cockney. . . . (Drop the curtain.)

Some little time afterwards when I had stopped the leaks (I had no bee veil on), I sat down on the river bank to view the landscape, what I could see of it, when I noticed an apparition coming towards me from a clump of willows. It was the Cockney. He was dressed as follows:—He had a chaff sack drawn over his head and shoulders; two holes cut for his eyes, also two for arm-holes, a pair of woollen socks over his hands, his sleeves tied up with binder twine, a woollen muffler round his waist, and pants secured at the bottom with binder twine. He waddled up to where I was sitting, and gazed at me.

"Lor' lumme, Guvnor! you do look 'andsome! Enny buddy would think you'd been up to the National Sporting Club," chortled Cockney out of the chaff sack.

"Cockney," I said out of a corner of my face, "this is about as funny as a funeral."

"Well, Guvnor, I won't leave yer in the lurch, but before I'd shift them bees again I'd sooner go to gaol for three munce; yes (savagely) six munce."

"Look here, Cockney," I replied, "we'll wait until dark, and get them over the remainder of the distance. Perhaps the blighters won't be able to see where to sting us at night."

"Look here, Guvnor, if you bring that ole 'oss near them bees again there's agoin' ter be a haccident. Tell yer wot we'll do. We'll get a 'and barrer and kerry them. Old "Scotty" can go ahead on us wiv a land tin (lantern)."

We managed it before midnight, old "Scotty" leading the procession with the "land tin."

The foundation of the Wai Tapu Beeyard was laid, also your humble servant was about to learn some very important lessons in self-control, instead of spending valuable time in wandering all over the surface of the planet.

Comb Foundation Making.

(By FRED. C. BAINES.)

In response to many requests from our readers and the fact of the scarcity and high price of the manufactured article, we have pleasure in giving these few instructions on the art of making this indispensable appliance. In addition to our own experience, we are giving many hints taken from the pamphlet issued by A. I. Root and Co., the makers of the embossing mills. The process is one of the most simple to explain, and success can only be gained by experience. The method here given is known as the dipping process. There is another method by which the wax sheets can be obtained the requisite thinness by putting fairly thick slabs of wax through smooth rollers. This, however, can only be worked successfully by men who have already mastered the process to be explained, which is written for the benefit of those who have never tried their hand at this part of apicultural work.

One of the prime essentials in foundation making is that the wax be absolutely clean of refuse and dirt; therefore a few instructions on how to get it so will not be out of place. After the wax has come from the press it will be found more or less dirty towards the bottom of the cakes. These must all be refined again by boiling with plenty of water, and, when all melted, dip out carefully from the top of the boiler so as not stir the contents too much, and as soon as you see any dirt coming out with the wax, which will be when you are nearing the bottom of the boiler, stop dipping, and allow what remains to cool by itself. Take particular care to cover up the wax very thoroughly, not less than three sacks thick. Put your tins all close together, and cover them right up, not forgetting the sides. Leave them forty-eight hours at least, by which time the cakes of wax will be quite solid, and shrunk that they will come easily out of the tins. By the way, before you start dipping the wax out into the tins, put

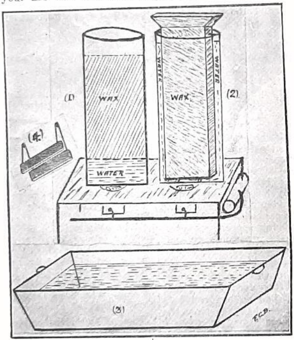
about a pint of boiling water into them. This will prevent the first dipperful cooling in any way and thus spoiling good work.

Now, perhaps you will say, "My wax is all quite clean, but all different colours from nearly black upwards; how can I get it all a nice yellow?" This can easily be done by the use of sulphuric acid, but one wants to be very careful with this, as it is easy to make the wax very brittle by using too much; so please, if you err at all let it be on the under side. The proportions are:—5 gallons of water, 100 lbs. of wax, 1 gill of acid. I use two tablespoons of acid to about 80 lbs. of wax, and find it ample. Get your boiler going with the water and wax, and when all is melted rake your fire out from underneath, so that there is very little movement in the wax. Now pour in your acid, which will cause the wax to become violently agitated, and if your fire was underneath would probably boil all over the place, spelling disaster. I very nearly had a serious accident the first time I used acid, and want you to avoid it. You will now find the wax is a nice bright yellow, and as soon as it has quieted down start dipping, and cool as before. Rinse your boiler thoroughly of the acid, as it eats into metals very quickly; it will also blister your hands and burn holes in your clothes, so be careful.

Having got all the wax to our liking, we shall want a room or shed that is fairly draught proof, as we have to raise the temperature to 80 or 85 degrees, and keep it there. This warmth is not very comfortable, but it is necessary if we are to do good work. Personally I have had to give up foundation-making for the reason I can't stand working in the hot, steamy atmosphere; but it does not affect everybody.

We shall want the following utensils, of which I have made a rough sketch:—One 2-burner Perfection stove, 1 boiler for wax (Fig. 1), dipping tank (Fig. 2), iron vat or similar vessel (Fig. 3), three dipping boards 24 x 9 x ⅜, these to be made of the heart of white pine, or similar wood without much grain, 1 dipper. And you need not go to a lot of expense to get these. Fig. 1 is a carbide drum; Fig. 2 is an oil-drum for the outside, the wax receptacle made from half sheet galvanised iron; the vat made from a whole sheet; measurements for inside vessel of dipping tank, 24 x 10 x 5.

On the day you intend working, get as early a start as possible. Put a kerosene tin of water in your boiler, so that you will not burn the wax; put in your wax which, to facilitate melting, should be broken into fair-sized chunks; also fill the outside of the dipping tank with water; light your stove, shut the door and all places where draughts are likely to come, so that by the time sufficient wax is melted in the boiler to enable you to fill the dipping tank, the temperature will be getting somewhere near right. Your vat will require to be half filled with water, into which put two cupfuls of salt; wet your dipping boards, and give them a good rubbing with salt; then leave them to soak until ready to start. The salt acts as a lubricant, as well as preventing the grain from rising. Your boards must be absolutely smooth, without crack or blemish, else all the sheets of wax will crack at that particular spot.



All ready to start? Right! Take your boards out of the vat; stand them on end to drain a bit; stand well above the dipping tank; take one of the boards at the top with both hands; immerse quickly and withdraw, allowing the surplus wax to run off; repeat the process; turn upside down

and do the same to the other end. These four dippings will give you sheets about the right thickness for medium brood foundation. Drop into the vat of water; lift one corner of the sheet, and the whole will peel off. To make a successful job it is necessary that the wax be neither too hot nor too cold, the temperature required being 165 to 170 degrees. If it is too cold, there is a small film, or little spots of cooling wax on top of the wax in the dipping tank, also little ripples on the sheets, and the surface of them will be wavy and the thickness irregular. If too hot the sheets will crack in peeling off. You can learn only by experience the importance of doing the dipping at the right temperature. By using three boards alternately, standing them on end to drain after stripping the sheets off, they will be just about the right degree of dampness for good work. Should the wax be inclined to stick on any particular part of the boards, rub them well with salt, which I have always found effectual. After a time the water in the vat will become quite hot; take a pailful out and replace with cold, adding a bit more salt. You will probably dip twenty or thirty times before you get sheets to your satisfaction; but do not get discouraged; stick to it, and you will soon do good work.

Such, then, is the process of dipping, which, if you follow out carefully, will mean success.

Having got all our sheets in piles ready for the embossing mill, we shall want the mill screwed firmly to a bench or table; another table to put the sheets on when through the mill; a cutting-board 16¾ x 7¾; a thin sharp knife such as butchers use; and the long shallow vat used for immersing the dipping boards. Fill this about half full of water, at a temperature of about 110 degrees, which is the right heat for giving the necessary pliability to the sheets. This heat will have to be maintained by adding hot water, as it soon cools through the cold wax sheets being put in. The temperature of the room to be not less than 80 degrees. You will want a lubricant for the rollers, and it is generally conceded that soap answers the best. Put a piece about 4 inches square into a gallon of hot water to dissolve it thoroughly. Now, warm your rollers by pouring hot water over them, turning them all the while so that they are warmed all round, but do not make them hot. Dip your hand into the soapy water, and rub it over the rollers until it has run well into all the grooves. Drop the wooden guide roller, take a sheet of wax from the vat, and insert one end between the embossers; give half a turn, and the sheet will be through the other side stuck on one of the rollers. Lift this with a blunt pointed instrument. I find the bone handle of a tooth-brush filed down to answer well; it must not be anything sharp to scratch the mill. Your assistant will then grasp the end of the sheet between the grippers (Fig. 4). You lift the guide roller so that the sheet is fed above the embossers, and finish the rolling. As soon as you have six sheets through, put them in a pile, place your cutting-board on, dip your knife into the soapy water, and trim, and you have the finished article.

I know few things that gave me so much pleasure and pride as my first batch of home-made foundation, and I hope these few instructions will prompt others to try their hand.

Now, just a few cautions. Do not try and run a dry sheet through the embosser. The temptation is very great, and I fell, only to find that I had given myself about three hours' work in getting them clean of wax. See there are no loose nails or similar things adhering to the sheets, because if they get through, the mill is badly damaged. Keep the mill clean of little pieces of wax getting into the grooves; if they get clogged, pour boiling water over them until clean, but do not start working them again until they have cooled; also the sheet will be too soft to handle. Experience is the factor in making good foundation; but if you never start, you will never learn.

Honey Crop Prospects.

The Director of the Horticulture Division has received from the Apiary Instructors the following report concerning the honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—The prospects here in the North are still fair; but the long dry spell has burnt up the clovers in some districts, and unless we get a good soaking rain soon the season will close early.

Prices are keeping up both in honey and wax.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Wellington.—The honey crop prospects this season are bright, and although the pasture in places is becoming dry, a few showers will restore it to its former brightness. Colonies are, generally speaking, in very good condition, and will fully avail themselves of the opportunities of storing nectar. Prices have again advanced, due to co-operation among the beekeepers, and very shortly the industry will reach a really sound commercial footing. Honey has a great demand, both at Home and abroad, and people are realising its great food value. Prices for honey in bulk (first grade), 8d. per lb.; beeswax (clean), 2/- per lb.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Dunedin.—As indicated last month, the prospects of a good season are excellent. The latter half of December was boisterous, but the weather conditions have now greatly improved. The recent spell of bad weather has retarded extracting. Prices are firm.—E. A. Earp.

Your Address written in Red Ink means "Subscription Due."

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—As a constant reader of your most useful Journal, I necessarily see all the pleasant and unpleasant remarks that are passed in regard to the operations of the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association on behalf of the New Zealand Honey Producers' Association. Up to the present the balance has been so even that I have not considered it necessary to reply to one or the other. As a matter of fact, owing to the amount of time that I have given personally to promote the interests of the New Zealand beekeepers in this country, I have very little time left for newspaper or journal correspondence.

There is an article, however, in your September publication that in my opinion calls for some reply, and I trust that you will do me the justice of allowing the necessary space.

I refer to the article written under the heading of "Stray Bees," by "R.B.," Bay of Plenty. I may or may not have had the pleasure of meeting this gentleman, but at time of writing I certainly cannot call him to mind.

The particular remarks that I wish to call attention to will be found on page 669 in the number referred to, the last paragraph, where your correspondent quotes from an American Bee Journal, and wonders "if those **supposed** to look after the interests of the New Zealand honey producers will take advantage of this information," etc., etc.

I think it is fair to assume that it is the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association that is referred to as being the ones that are **supposed** to look after the interests, &c.

I should like to say right now there is no question of "supposing" in the matter. Ever since I had the pleasure of meeting the delegates of the New Zealand beekeepers and set forth my proposed scheme to them—which at the time they were only too pleased to accept—I have never spared time or money in my endeavours to promote the best interests of the New Zealand beekeepers in the United Kingdom, and I think the results that we as an Association have achieved are sufficient evidence that my statement is correct.

I have on several occasions, both personally and through our New Zealand office, requested the Executive of the Honey Producers' Association to delegate us someone or other who at any time may be visiting this country to call at this office, when our books are at all times open for inspection, and the very fullest information ready to be given.

It is quite possible that the remarks contained in the American Bee Journal are at any rate partially correct; in fact, I have reason to believe that contracts have been made by the British Government for quantities of honey, but neither the American Journal referred to or your correspondent state at what price; and after all I submit that this should have some bearing on the subject.

There are several reasons why I, as the representative of the N.Z.H.P.A. and the one "**supposed**" to be looking after the interests at this end, would not tender:—

First, at the period when these particular contracts were made, the honey from Jamaica, Chile, Cuba, and even California was to be purchased in 100-barrel parcels in the neighbourhood of 80/- per cwt. c.i.f. any port in the United Kingdom, and I think it is only reasonbale to believe that this price would not be less than what the Government was prepared to pay for thousands of barrels. Even if I am not cute enough to "take advantage" of this information, I am quite sure our friends the other side the Atlantic are; therefore, if I had entered the lists on behalf of the N.Z.H.P.A. as a tenderer for Government requirements, it would probably have meant that the whole of the supplies from New Zealand would have at the present time been mortgaged to the Imperial Government at anything between 80/- and 90/- per cwt., when at the present time, owing to the law of supply and demand, we are able to obtain as high as 115/- per cwt. for some of the best of the New Zealand honey that we are at present receiving.

Secondly, and to my mind as an average business man a most important reason—namely, what was to become of the connection that we have so well established with so many thousands of the best grocers the length and breadth of the United Kingdom? Does your correspondent imagine for one moment that we can take these people up and drop them just as we like? Then, what about contracts that we have made months and months ago, before ever the present high prices were dreamed of? Does your correspondent suggest that we as straightforward trading agents should ignore all these? **I** don't think so!

At the particular time—namely, last January—when we commenced making forward contracts for New Zealand honey, other firms were making contracts for other honies quite as suitable for this trade at a much less price than we made our contracts for; consequently, unless we had been prepared to follow suit we should have lost the valuable connection we had taken such pains to build up.

It may be news to some of your readers to know that contracts were made by American firms for finest Californian honey, September-October shipments to this country, at 6d. per lb. f.o.b. New York. If evidence of this statement is required it is available at our **New Zealand Office.**

I wonder if your correspondent remembers the position the New Zealand beekeepers were in in regard to marketing their honey when their representatives made the first arrangement with me some three years ago, and when I, on behalf of my Association, guaranteed them not less than 4d. per lb. f.o.b. Wellington. How were the speculators treating them then? and how will they treat them when things become normal again?

As a matter of fact I am now prepared to **guarantee** the beekeepers of New Zealand that remain loyal to their Association

not less than 60/- per cwt. for all first grade light amber honey for a period of three years after cessation of hostilities. Will our friend from the Bay of Plenty produce any other firm who is prepared to give the same guarantee?

In conclusion, may I be permitted to affirm that this Association which is "supposed" to look after the interests of the New Zealand honey producers has lived up to the spirit of its contract with the beekeepers of New Zealand to the very fullest degree. I regret, however, to state that I cannot say the same for some of the beekeepers in the Dominion of New Zealand.—I am, &c.,

A. E. M. NORTON,
Managing Director,
The Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association, Ltd.

St. Stephen's Avenue, Bristol, England,
November 1st, 1917.

* * *

Wellington, N.Z.,
9th January, 1918.

The Secretary National Beekeepers' Assn.,
Kati Kati, Bay of Plenty.

Sir,—Your letter of 29th ult. received. The position is that our English offices have been trying for some time to secure supplies there of New Zealand honey, and have now concluded to approach the grower direct. We have our own offices in the main centres, and have our outlets for honey assured, especially when realised in conjunction with other products, such as butter, cheese, preserved meats, &c.

We make no advances without recourse, whilst as regards charging interest, this item is so infinitesimal that it may be ignored, except, perhaps, if we advance on honey prior to shipment. In that case we would charge interest at 6 per cent. up to time of shipment.

Our commission rate for realising consignments is 2½ per cent.

We think an advance of, say, 6d. per lb. on honey graded for export in store is reasonable, the balance of advance being paid on shipment if required.

As the produce is on consignment, all charges naturally are for account of the consignor.

As regards beeswax, our client particularly desires supplies for Canada, but we have our other outlets through our English and Australian offices.

Of course, if we could secure good straight lines of honey say, in ten or twenty ton lots, we could effect an outright purchase in New Zealand, if shippers would so prefer.

Yours faithfully,
For S. V. Nevanas & Co. Pty., Ltd.,
E. J. ARLOW,
Manager for N.Z.

* * * *

Auckland, N.Z.,
December 29th, 1917.

Mr. Fred. C. Baines,
National Beekeepers' Assn.,
Kati Kati.

Sir,—In further reference to your letter of November 27th re honey tins, we are pleased to state that we have received a cable from New York advising that a shipment of our tin plates has been made by the s.s. ——, which is due here about the 16th January. When this shipment comes to hand, we will be in a position to supply all honey tins required.

Yours truly,
ALEX. HARVEY & SONS, LTD.,
Per ALEX. HARVEY.

[The above is in reply to an enquiry as to the exact position of the tin-plate trade. On the face of this, benzine tins are really not absolutely necessary.—Ed.]

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(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In the September number of your Journal "Critic" has again referred to the subject of crystallisation, and still holds to his opinion that the term growth is scientifically correct. In opening the subject, he says:—"It will be remembered that this question came up over what I termed growth of a substance in honey, which, for want of a better name, we referred to as scum." If "Critic" means by this that scum is a crystallisation, he is quite wrong, for scum is not a crystallisation, but an efflorescence. Now, as to whether growth is a scientifically correct term to use for the process of the formation of crystals, in a popular discussion it may be right enough, because custom among unscientific people has by constant use made it recognised as such. But when we come to science it is quite a different matter. In science growth means that mysterious process whereby matter in the dead inorganic world is translated into the organic world. Whereas it was dead, it is now alive: it moves and breathes and has all the functions of life; in fact, a miracle has taken place that no man can understand, much less describe. The same applies to animal growth: it is the most complex thing in the world, and also the most mysterious. Now, while all processes of Nature are mysterious, yet crystallisation is comparatively simple. It is simply the adding of one atom of matter of the same kind to another, much in the same way as the building of a house by adding one brick to another. Yet you would not say that the house was a growth, or that it grew, but that it was built. To me it seems almost absurd to say that these two things (so widely apart, the one in the organic world and endowed with life, and the other in the inorganic or mineral world and dead inert matter) are the same, and that it is scientifically correct to call them the same. I was glad to find that Mr. Barker, who is a good scientist, therefore a good authortiy, endorses my opinion.—I am, &c.,

A. IRELAND.

* * * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Some considerable time ago lignolite was recommended in your pages as a cure for the white pine borer. Can you kindly tell me more particularly what this is? Several chemists from whom enquiries have been made have never heard of it at all. Perhaps you may be able to sug-

gest another remedy for the borer. If you can, the favour would be much esteemed. Thanking you in anticipation,—I am, &c.,

H. W. E.

[We cannot find out anything about this chemical. Perhaps the contributor of the article in which the substance was recommended can help you. We shall appreciate a remedy if any of our readers have one.—Ed.]

* * * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I am treating my bees for foulbrood, and it struck me that the Allardyce frames would be a convenience in the management, so I bought a few sets solely for carrying out the McEvoy cure, and found them to be a great saving of time and labour. The frames, which I use without wiring, are placed in petrol boxes, put together as described in Hopkins' Manual, and the bees shaken on to them. After two days these frames are stripped of resulting comb, and again after succeeding two days. Should the weather be unfavourable, they can be kept under control for a week or more before settling in a sterilised hive. Hoping that this hint will be useful to some of your many readers,—I am, &c.,

A. F. E.

Charlton, 18/12/17.

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(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—On page 730 (December Journal) you draw attention to the danger of tainting honey by using benzine tins. I have always used benzine tins for bulk honey, and after numerous experiments I found it was a mistake to wash the tins with hot water. I have spent considerable time and labour washing tins with hot water and soda, and found they still smelt strongly of benzine. Now, I simply rinse the tins twice with cold water, then completely fill them with cold water, and let them stand for about 48 hours. You will then notice two or three drops of oil on the surface of the water. Empty the tins, give them a final rinse out with cold water, and place them in a sunny position to dry. I tested one of my tins to-day by putting in some boiling water and shaking it well, and there was no sign of a benzine smell.

My opinion is that the hot water merely cements the residue oil from the benzine on to the tin, and, wash as much as you like, it will stop there. The cold water gradually allows this oil to rise to the top, and when you empty the tin you get two or three drops of oil out of the tin, the receptacle being left nice and sweet, fit for honey or any other commodity.

For seven or eight years I have cleaned my tins with cold water, and have sold my honey in bulk to grocers, who have to heat it and put it up in small bottles, &c. I have never had a complaint about tainted honey, and do not expect one.—I am, &c.,

C. A. OLDMAN.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—After reading the criticism of "R. B.," Bay of Plenty, on my article in the Beekeepers' Journal, page 702, I would like to verify my statements.

"R. B." states (page 689) we have good roads for motor cars throughout the Bay. To this I will word the reply which I received from the representative of the Alliance Box Company, who intended to make a motor trip from Tauranga to Opotiki last June. "I had my car on the boat at Auckland (which was leaving for Tauranga), when I met a Tauranga merchant, who informed me that it was impossible to think of motoring through the Bay, as the roads were so bad." So our friend got his car off the boat, and postponed his motor trip.

Then "R. B." states (page 736) there are between 300 and 400 cars in the Bay. This I do not doubt, as the Bay of Plenty is a large district; but one noticeable thing is the greater number are light cars, principally Fords, as all car-owners are unanimous in the fact that a light car will go over roads where a heavier make would get bogged. Evidently "R. B." realises this, as I understand he has lately invested in a Ford.

Again, "R. B." states there are tens of thousands of acres surrounding large and old-established dairy factories, which land is unoccupied by beekeepers. To this I must say that I know of three different cases where beekeepers have tried to establish apiaries close to dairy factories, and two of these were in a fertile valley (not amongst swamp, rushes, &c.), and in each case the beekeeper sold out in disgust, as the honey was too thick to extract. I know of other beekeepers who would sell out if they could.

The greatest drawback throughout the Bay is the manuka and native trees within a bee-line radius of these clover fields, and I very much doubt whether there is a site in the Bay of Plenty where an apiary would not be within a radius of the manuka and native trees, even on the Opotiki flats, which are at the present time the most suitable place for beekeeping. These flats consist of about 8,000 acres of cultivated country.

Re the yield of honey I have procured and the increase I intend to make, it is quite correct, although at the present time a great quantity of this honey I am unable to extract, but I hope in the near future to be able to cope with this thick honey in a satisfactory manner

The bees from our home yard fly three and a-half miles to the willows along the Rangitaiki River in the spring, also two and a-half miles to the native bush, and

Your Address written in Red Ink means "Subscription Due."

over three miles to a cabbage-tree patch, and there are a few thousand acres of clover and dandelion fields close by, and all this is intermingled with manuka and other native scrub, hence the thick honey.—I am, &c.,

A. L. LUKE.

Awakeri, 14/12/17.

P.S.—I understand, Mr. Editor, that you intend to take a trip through the Bay at an early date. Please take notice, and see if you can find the good motor roads mentioned by "R. B." Also, I am quite prepared to donate a ten-pound note to the Red Cross Fund for every apiary site you can find within a radius of five miles of each other from Tauranga to Opotiki where the bees would not get a quantity of native scrub honey.—A.L.L.

* * * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Extracting time is now here, and whisky is very dear. Can anyone give a good reliable method of making mead, and also vinegar. I tried to make some mead once, and twelve months after my friends and myself thought it was very good; but I tasted some at the Ruakura State Farm shortly after, and when I got home the balance of our mead was run into a creek.—I am, &c.,

A. L. LUKE.

Awakeri, 17/1/18.

Co-operative Efforts.

By JOHN HENDRICKS.

(Read at the Annual Meeting of the Colorado Honey Producers' Association.)

I have experienced, first hand, this year some of the difficulties of the manager of a co-operative society. As business manager of our local Farmers' Union I was asked to find a market for the farmers' potatoes. This business was entirely new to me. I procured a list of commission houses that make a specialty of handling potatoes in car lots, and got into communication with them. I then asked the farmers here who had potatoes to sell to list their crop with the Union. This they were perfectly willing to do. Next I tried to learn what the farmers wanted for their potatoes. I succeeded in getting a buyer who said he would take all the potatoes the community had to offer at the price the growers had given me. As soon as I acquainted the farmers with this fact the value of potatoes rose in their estimation, and they then wanted 10 cents more per cwt. I again set to work to find someone who would pay the additional 10 cents. When I made it known that we had secured a buyer who would take the potatoes at this advanced price, other buyers were coming in who naturally met the price.

The farmers had required that the purchaser send an agent into the community to inspect the potatoes and pay for them when they were loaded. By the time my man arrived practically all the potatoes had been sold to other buyers, who would not have paid the farmers the price they received had it not been for the work the Union did. When the buyer I secured reached our community there was only one car of potatoes left for him to pick up.

These farmers had listed their potatoes with the Union for the Union to sell. When the Union found a buyer at the highest price asked, and other buyers began offering the same, the farmers who had listed their potatoes sold to the first buyer that came along offering this price. What complicated matters still more was that they did not report to the Union the sale of their potatoes.

After having had this experience, I feel that I want to urge the members of any Co-operative Association to be more loyal in their support of the manager of the Association. Success in co-operative effort cannot be achieved simply by having a shrewd man as business manager. The manager cannot attain the utmost success possible without 100 per cent. loyalty on the part of every member of the Society. If the manager is anything like a competent man, I feel safe in saying that he will strive to be perfectly just to all members, regardless of personalities, and the members of the Association make a mistake therefore if they allow personalities, tempting offers, or anything else to stand between them and the Association. When large buyers come we should do what a fellow member of the Colorado Association in this locality did this season when a travelling man for a wholesale house came to negotiate for his crop. Instead of trying to make a sale, this party referred him to our manager.

I consider it our duty to keep the business manager fully advised as to what we expect our crop to be, and when the crop is harvested to report to him at the earliest possible moment the exact quantity of all grades. Then in case the quantity is reduced by local sales, we should keep him advised of the reduction. Not only should we keep him fully informed as to our crop for marketing, but we should also let him know promptly what our requirements in the way of supplies will be for the next season. On the day that the honey flow stops, any one of us could take a few moments to get together our needs in the way of the next season's supplies. If we would do this and send our estimate promptly to the manager it would surely be helpful to all concerned.

Any Co-operative Society as large as the Colorado Honey Producers' Association will usually have a volume of business to tax to the limit the ability of its manager. If we as members do not do our part promptly, we handicap the manager, and to that extent injure the Association. And since we members are the Association, when we do not do promptly and faithfully our duty toward the manager, we injure ourselves.—American Bee Journal.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

"Our hearts, our hopes are all with thee,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears;
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears
Are all with thee, are all with thee."
—Longfellow.

B. G. EDWARDS, late of Geraldine. Invalided home.
L. D. CARTER, late of Springfield. Invalided home.
E. A. DENNIS, Glenroy.
W. A. HAWKE, Whitecliffs.
S. R. SMITH, Woodbury. Killed in action.
R. N. GIDLEY, Christchurch.
J. SILLIFANT, Christchurch.
P. B. HOLMES, Pirongia.
T. H. PEARSON, Claudelands.
R. E. HARRIS, Te Kowhai. Wounded.
J. P. IRELAND, Te Kowhai.
G. R. WILLIS, Pukekohe.
A. ECKROYD, St. Albans, Christchurch.
A. CURTIS, Porowhita.
W. G. DONALD, Brookside.
E. N. HONORE, Otakeho.
E. JEFFERY, Opotiki. Died in Egypt.
J. B. ARMSTRONG, Opotiki.
G. ROGERS, Opotiki.
C. BICKNELL, Greytown. Killed in action.
P. OTOWAY, Featherston. Killed in action.
G. NAPIER, Alfredton.
N. C. NAPIER, Alfredton.
W. J. JORDAN, Ngaruawahia.
G. SQUIRES, Fairview.
MURDO McKENZIE, Dunrobin.
W. H. BLACKIE, Ryal Bush.
JAMES IRVING, Albury.
R. M. HAMILTON, Ettrick.
A. E. CURRIE, Maungatua.
JAS. MARSHALL, Maungatua.
A. BEVAN, Waihau Downs.
D. CRAWFORD, Waikoikoi. Killed in action.
R. S. SUTHERLAND, Port Chalmers. Discharged; re-volunteered.
S. G. HERBERT, Ruawai.
F. W. LUNT, Addington.
J. MORGAN, Dannevirke.
H. SQUIRES, Hawera.
ALEX. MAITLAND, Orari. Killed in action.
A. R. BATES, Kaponga.
C. E. QUAIFE, Russell's Flat.
G. HARRISON, Waipahi.
H. W. McCALL, Wallacetown. Killed in action.
G. I. SHAW, Dometr.
D. McCULLOCH, Havelock North.
E. CLARK, Westmere; invalided; severely wounded.

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